

PARADE COMES DOWN WASHINGTON ST.

THE
20's AND 30's:

Pastoral Times



There was a pastoral time in Duxbury when elder citizens leisurely dropped into Miss Redlon's Gift and Tea Shop on Bay Rd.

Mrs. Grace Peterson sold plants, cut flowers and advertised floral designs, and a tonsorial artist who became a Duxbury institution ran a little ad.

It was a time when Duxbury was small and unsophisticated, when most of its residents were not bond salesmen, investment counselors or bankers. There were, of course, a few bankers, but not many above the rank of assistant vice president. It was a time when J. W. Poole, manager of Nation-Wide Service Grocers in Island Creek, mentioned in his ad: "You Know the Owner."

Around the bend was a blacksmith shop, and between puffs on a corncob, the natives made nostalgic references to the livery stable.

It was a pastoral time occasionally punctuated by a taffy pull or strawberry festival. It was a time when J. F. Bolton was a leading painting contractor, when the best catcher in the town or county or state was Ralph Blakeman, who donned "the tools of ignorance," for the Duxbury Town Baseball Team. Ralph could hit the ball a county mile.

Yes, it was a pastoral time when folks paused to chat in the Periodical and Variety Store

owned by C. H. Josselyn, while girls in curls went behind the candy counter to pick up licorice bars. It was a gracious era when B. F. Goodrich sold coal and grain and when a Legion spokesman defending the biggest bonfire on the South Shore, if not in the Western Hemisphere, ran an ad in the July Fourth brochure: "The Legion feels that any material burned would cost more to be made into usable firewood than good wood could be obtained

for."

It was a time when Walter Prince, the leading landscape and construction entrepreneur in town, was chairman of the general committee of the First Annual Duxbury Days.

It was 1932. On July 3 and 4 of that year Duxbury celebrated the Glorious Fourth at Train Field. On the advisory committee were Mrs. Franklin Brett, Miss Louise Coburn, Roderic MacDonald, Ralph Thompson, Mrs. G. F.

Redlon, Mrs. Horace Soule, Sidney Soule, Leon Stetson, Mrs. Parker Wittington and William Young.

Lawrence Whitney was chairman of the bonfire committee, assisted by Judge Arthur Beane and Joseph Sager.

Kempton Baker chaired the parade committee, assisted by Arthur Bennett, Paul Cushing, Fannie Horsfall, H. E. Merry, Harry Tammatt and Mercy Soule.

Frank Williams was in charge of sports, assisted by Richard Crocker, Kenneth Macomber and Harold Mosher. In charge of the horse show was Eben Briggs. His helpers were Jane Kelly, Peggy Lund, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Pierce, Alene Potter, Brenda Tweed and Constance Young. It was a pastoral time when the chief marshal rode a horse along the parade route without falling off.

Ralph Thompson was chairman of the fireworks committee. His staffers included Alice Berriman, Eben Briggs, Edmund Kelley, Waldo Kennard, Dr. George Morse, Paul Peterson, Harry Towle, Frederic Pratt, William Seymour, Leon Stetson, and Paul Gifford. Named to choose the best Horribles were Jack Paine, Paul Peterson, William Nickerson, H. P. Moulton and Wendell Phillips.

Music was furnished by the Kingston H.S. Band, the Duxbury Boys' Club, the Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps and the Tinker-town Novelty Band. Herbert Walker gave the history of Duxbury as part of the bi-centennial exercises. The A.L. Auxiliary was in charge of the dining tent.

There was a horse show on Mr. Abbot's field and several baseball games. The Duxbury Boys Club played the Halifax Town Team, while the Duxbury Town Team tangled with the Reed Club of Kingston. The Duxbury Girls' Club opposed a team from Plymouth, and the Duxbury Semipros opposed the Cambridge Colored Tigers.

Highlights of the Boy Scout competition included first aid, rope tying, signalling and message relay.

There were field events, including dashes, shot put, broad and high jump, hop skip and jump, sack races. There was a contest to see whether anyone could throw a baseball as far as Ralph Blakeman, and women competed in a rolling pin toss.

Commodore Frederick Pratt of DYC invited folks to see the boat racing in Duxbury Bay. H. E. Merry took honors in the heavy harness class, and the horsemanship competition was keen. Mr. and Mrs. Roger Pierce donated the trophy for the gymkhana.

Everyone enjoyed the 2-day celebration, including the Duxbury selectmen who, in those pastoral days, were not asked to approve anything which the majority of voters disapproved of.

It was a pastoral time.